

News release

Province's Bars to Close, Restaurants Limited to Take-out, Delivery as of Thursday; Gatherings Limited to 50 or Fewer Effective Immediately

[COVID - 19 \(../search?dept=180\)](#) / [Health and Wellness \(../search?dept=134\)](#)

March 17, 2020 - 6:05 PM

Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's chief medical officer of health, and Premier Stephen McNeil announced new measures today, March 17, to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Effectively immediately, there are to be no gatherings of more than 50 people.

The measures below come into effect at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, March 19:

- restaurants are restricted to take-out and delivery only and no in-person dining
- drinking establishments, winery and distillery tasting rooms and craft taprooms must close
- private liquor stores can continue to operate and craft breweries, wineries and distilleries can continue to sell their product from their storefronts

Nova Scotia Health Authority and IWK Health Centre announced today health system measures to deal with COVID-19.

Anyone who has travelled outside of Canada must self-isolate for 14 days when they return to Nova Scotia. If you have been in close contact with someone who has travelled and are experiencing fever (above 38 C) and/or new cough should complete the online questionnaire before calling 811. The online questionnaire can be found at: <https://811.novascotia.ca/> (<https://811.novascotia.ca/>)

Nova Scotians can find accurate, up-to-date information, handwashing posters and fact sheets at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus> (<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>) .

Quick Facts:

- testing numbers are updated daily at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus> (<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>)
- the Government of Canada has issued a travel advisory asking Canadians to avoid non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice
- Nova Scotia's Health Protection Act gives the chief medical officer of health the authority to give advice to protect public health and decrease risk to public health presented by communicable diseases such as COVID-19

Additional Resources:

Nova Scotia Health Authority: <https://www.nshealth.ca> (<https://www.nshealth.ca>)

IWK Health Centre: <http://www.iwk.nshealth.ca/> (<http://www.iwk.nshealth.ca/>)

The Public Health Agency of Canada maintains a list of affected areas:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/covid-19-affected-areas-list.html>
(<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/covid-19-affected-areas-list.html>)

Government of Canada: <https://canada.ca/coronavirus> (<https://canada.ca/coronavirus>)

Government of Canada toll-free information line 1-833-784-4397

Nova Scotia Public Health offices: <http://www.nshealth.ca/public-health-offices>
(<http://www.nshealth.ca/public-health-offices>)

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